period between the reception of the injury and the first fit the man has contracted syphilis, which has produced epilepsy under the cloak of traumatism, and which is only relieved by mercury and the iodides, or he has a constitutional inherited tendency to epilepsy, aside from any extraneous causes." The convulsions might still have continued in the second case, after the removal of the depressed fragment of bone, and yet the epilepsy have been originated by the traumatism; the same might hold good had the fits had a luetic cause and careful anti-syphilitic treatment had been instituted. As Hughlings-Jackson expressed it, a syphilitic lesion may *cause the cause* of the fits, and this latter cause (probably high instability of cells in the vicinity of the original lesion), not being specific, may continue after the removal of all cerebral evidences of syphilis.

Through an oversight, perhaps, the dose of dilute hydrobromic acid, mentioned in the chapter devoted to the treatment of epilepsy, is considerably larger than that usually prescribed: one-half a fluidounce to one fluidounce, in place of one-half to one drachm. Nickel bromide, too, should scarcely be given in the same dose as potassium bromide. From five to ten grains is the ordinary dose of this salt of nickel, while that of potassium bromide is, of course, much larger.

In concluding these few criticisms we would say that the book is an excellent *résumé*, treated in a painstaking and thorough manner. We cordially recommend it to those interested in the subject.

D. D. S.

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH. By LOUIS C. PARKES, M.D., D.P.H. Lond. Univ., Assistant Professor of Hygiene and Public Health at University College, London. With Illustrations. Pp. 485. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1890.

THE second edition of this practical, plainly-written, elementary work on hygiene follows closely upon the first issue. The author must be congratulated upon the success of his efforts to interest the practising profession upon so important and vital a subject. It is remarkable to note how rapidly the question of hygiene is absorbing the attention both of the medical profession and the laity, and although there has not elapsed a sufficient time to allow of very important additions to the mass of sanitary knowledge already presented to his readers, Dr. Parkes is able to supplement the information already given with fresh facts and new tables.

It will be advisable to devote some space to the quotation of the new data and paragraphs, and thus enable the reader to judge for himself, viz.:

"There is also some evidence to show that leaden water-pipes are much more rapidly corroded when the mains are intermittently charged than when kept under constant high pressure."

In speaking of magnetic carbide of iron as a filtering substance, the following paragraph has been added: "A very similar material called polarite has lately come into use. It contains about fifty per cent. of magnetic oxide and carbide of iron combined with other insoluble mineral matters, and is capable of producing equally good results."

Sewage: "Another deodorizing method recently introduced is that known as the 'Amines' process. The sewage is treated with milk of lime and with a small quantity of herring-brine, which contains a certain percentage of the compound ammonia termed methylamine. This substance acts as a deodorant and antiseptic, and is said to sterilize the effluent completely, so that it undergoes no secondary fermentation, whilst the sludge is so far deodorized that it can be dried in pits exposed to the air, or of a drying kiln, without giving rise to noxious effluvia."

Air and Ventilation: "A new explosive termed roburite has been lately introduced into some Lancashire collieries. It is a mixture of nitro-benzines and ammonium nitrate. Several cases of poisoning, however, have occurred amongst the miners, both from handling the cartridges and from breathing the fumes after explosion."

Soils: "Another common cause of damp walls is defective gutters to the roof, or broken or otherwise damaged rain-water pipes."

Mineral waters are referred to with a few words of warning. A case is given of a water described as the purest water in the world. It was found to contain an excess of organic matter and floating particles, which on microscopical examination were discovered to consist of masses of fungi and bacteria, besides being impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen.

Contagia: "Quite recently mice have been rendered immune against anthrax virus by injection of an albumose isolated from cultures of the anthrax bacilli."

A mere reference is made to chemical vaccination.

A table of weights and measures is also added.

It will be seen from the above quotations that, while no new discoveries of the first importance are to be found in this second edition, nevertheless Dr. Parkes is able to present his readers with some new and interesting facts, and thus keep them *au courant* with the history of this great subject, which can hardly yet be said to have emerged from its infancy. S. G. D.

THE ESSENTIALS OF MEDICAL CHEMISTRY AND URINALYSIS. By SAM E. WOODY, A.M., M.D., etc. Third edition. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1890.

THE fact that Prof. Woody's little book has reached a third edition in such a short time is sufficient proof of its usefulness for, and demand by, the medical student. The selection of the material and its plan of presentation resulting from the author's large experience as a practitioner and teacher of medical chemistry is well intended to offer to the student that which is really essential for his limited college course, and it is to be hoped, a basis for further instruction in this important branch of medical science.

While we might hint at the superfluous elucidation of strictly-technical processes, and the reappearance of the publishers' much-used cuts from all their other chemical works, such as refining sulphur, making reduced iron, etc., we can but congratulate the author on his additions in organic chemistry and urinalysis, and bespeak for his little work the attention of medical students and practitioners. L. W.